

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No. : 10/500,789  
Applicants : Yutaka AWAJIYA et al.  
Filed : April 11, 2005  
Art Unit : 1793  
Examiner : Scott R. KASTLER  
Title : METHOD FOR CONTINUOUS  
CASTING OF STEEL  
Docket No. : 04433/HG  
Confirm No. : 8484  
Customer No.: 01933

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700**

This paper is being submitted  
via EFS-Web on  
March 17, 2009

In the event that this Paper  
is late filed, and the  
necessary petition for  
extension of time is  
not filed concurrently  
herewith, please consider  
this as a Petition for the  
requisite extension of time,  
and to the extent not already  
paid, authorization to charge  
the extension fee to Account  
No. 06-1378. In addition,  
authorization is hereby given  
to charge any fees for which  
payment has not been submitted,  
or to credit any overpayments,  
to Account No. 06-1378.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**MAIL STOP AF**

S I R :

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 24,  
2008. The term for responding to said Office Action expires on  
March 24, 2009. Please amend the above-identified application as  
follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.